

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 2, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BIGGS submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Camille St. Amand and others, praying the passage of an act reinstating their entries of certain lands in the State of Louisiana, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to make the following report :*

That the entries by Camille St. Amand and others as pre-emptors of certain lands in township 14 south, of range 20 east, southeastern district of Louisiana, were cancelled in the year 1856 by the General Land Office, for the reason, as stated by the petitioners, that their settlements were made prior to the survey of said lands, this being in violation of the 10th section of the pre-emption act approved September 4, 1841, which only allows pre-emption settlements upon lands which may have been surveyed prior to the time when settled upon. It also appears that the lands in question are within the limits of the grant made to the "Opelousas and Great Western Railroad" by act of Congress approved June 3, 1856, and in conflict with the claim of the children of Paul Toups, which was confirmed to Ambrose Lanfear by act of Congress approved August 18, 1856.

The petitioners having clearly acquired no right of pre-emption under the pre-emption law of September 4, 1841, and the United States having relinquished by the above cited acts their interest in said lands, your committee are of the opinion that the relief asked for cannot, and should not, be granted, and report adversely to the prayer of the petitioners, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

